

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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P R 051740Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9383
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2143

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, ML
SUBJECT: BRANDT COMMISSION MEETING IN BAMA KO

REF: STATE 095155

1. SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS THE LIMITED INFORMATION WE HAVE OBTAINED ON THE MAY 15-17 MEETING OF THE BRANDT COMMISSION HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. BEFORE THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, THE ONLY THING WE HAD ON THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES WAS A LETTER FROM THE FRG AMBASSADOR HERE STATING THAT THE BRANDT COMMISSION HAD DECIDED AT ITS MARCH 10-12 MEETING IN MONT-PELERIN, SWITZERLAND TO HOLD ITS THIRD SESSION IN BAMA KO FROM MAY 15 TO 17 AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI WAS IN AGREEMENT.

3. SINCE THEN I HAVE SEEN JAGE ANDERSEN, THE DANISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT
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IN GENEVA, DURING HIS PREPARATORY VISIT HERE AND HAVE GATHERED A FEW ADDITIONAL DETAILS FROM THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR. THE INFORMATION REMAINS SKETCHY.

4. THE BRANDT COMMISSION WANTED ITS NEXT MEETING TO BE IN AFRICA AND CHOSE MALI BECAUSE IT WAS CLEARLY ONE OF THE POOREST OF THE POOR AND BECAUSE WILLY BRANDT

WAS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO CHAIR A SESSION OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN DAKAR FROM MAY 12 TO 13. SOME TIME AFTER THE BAMAKO MEETING BRANDT IS EXPECTED TO GO ON TO NIAMEY AND ALGIERS.

5. THE COMMISSION WILL MEET NEXT IN NORTH AMERICA, THEN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WILL PROBABLY HOLD ITS FINAL SESSION SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE TO APPROVE ITS REPORT IN THE MIDDLE OF 1979. MALI IS THE ONLY AFRICAN VENUE.

6. MOST PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN BAMAKO ON MAY 14, MANY OF THEM HAVING ATTENDED A ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE ON COMMODITIES IN LONDON FROM MAY 11 TO 13. BRANDT WILL GIVE A DINNER FOR THE COMMISSION THAT NIGHT, THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI WILL PROBABLY ENTERTAIN THEM THE EVENING OF MAY 15, AND THE FRG AMBASSADOR WILL HOLD HIS "NATIONAL DAY" RECEPTION ON MAY 16. ON MAY 18 PARTICIPANTS EITHER DEPART MALI OR REMAIN FOR A TRIP TO MOPTI AND THE DOGON COUNTRY.

7. PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE WILL PRESUMABLY RECEIVE SOME OR ALL OF THE COMMISSION, BUT NOTHING IS SET SO FAR.

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8. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE PRECISE AGENDA. PAPERS ARE BEING PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF PROFESSOR GORAN OHLIN, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION. SIX OR EIGHT SPECIALISTS FROM VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK ON THE FIRST DAY, BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO ACTUALLY WILL COME. AMONG THOSE INVITED ARE THE MALIAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; AN ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY MAY HAVE BEEN ADDED WHEN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO CHANGED HANDS IN THE CABINET RESHUFFLE OF MAY 4.

9. I SOUNDED OUT JAGE ANDERSON ON THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING LODGING OR OTHER HOSPITALITY TO THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS BUT WAS TOLD DIPLOMATICALLY BUT FIRMLY THAT THE COMMISSION WAS TO BE HOUSED ENTIRELY AT THE HOTEL DE L'AMITIE, WHERE THE MEETINGS WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE. ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE SESSION, APART FROM THE OFFICIAL SCHEDULE, WAS SPECIFICALLY DISCOURAGED. THE IDEA IS FOR THE 17 COMMISSIONERS TO REMAIN TOGETHER TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE TO INTERACT AND TO CONCENTRATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT

ISSUES AT HAND.

10. AT ANDERSEN'S REQUEST, WE ARE LENDING TWO TYPE-WRITERS TO THE SECRETARIAT AND SHALL RESPOND TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS WE CAN.

1. IF WE LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT THE AGENDA IN TIME TO BE OF VALUE, WE SHALL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT.
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